

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



## Survey Summary

Solicitation in neighborhoods has been identified as an issue in Westfield. By answering the following questions, the City will better be able to tailor an ordinance that meets the needs of the residents.

The intent in conducting this survey is to investigate the regulation the sale of goods and services by solicitors or canvassers at residences in Westfield in order to diminish criminal activity, including property damage in Westfield and abusive techniques utilized by any such solicitor or canvasser which adversely affect the public health, safety, welfare and quality of life in Westfield. This survey is intended to balance competing interests, reduce criminal activity and protect Westfield citizens from abusive sales techniques versus the conduct of proper commercial sales activity.

## Survey Methodology

The survey was available online. Links to the online survey were placed the City of Westfield Website Homepage as well as on the Westfield Community Association Network (WeCAN) Website. The location of the survey was also mentioned in the Current on 1/11/2011 and 1/18/2011. There were a total of 794 respondents who completed the survey from December 3, 2010 to January 24, 2011.

## Survey Results

- 1) Please enter the name of your neighborhood (if you are not in a neighborhood, please list your nearest major cross street).

Subdivision Name	Number of Responses
Andover	5
Ashfield	5
Austin Oaks	1
Bainbridge	1
Beacon Pointe	7
Bellewood	3
Bookside	1
Brentwood Village	4
Bridgewater	17
Bridlewood	9
Broadview	6

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Broadway Addition	1
Brookside	53
Brookview Place	4
Carey Commons	7
Carey Glen	9
Centennial	33
Claybourne	2
Cool Creek Circle	2
Countryside	20
Crestview	6
Cross Streets East of US 31	14
Cross Streets West of US 31	30
Crosswind Commons	4
Downtown	127
Farr Hills	5
Grassy Knoll	8
Harvest Meadows	6
Heather knoll	4
Jolietville	1
Kellie's Lane	3
Kinsey Ave.	1
Maple Knoll	4
Maple Village	2
Maples at Springmill	3
Merrimac	26
Morgan Woods	6
Mulberry Farms	8
Oak Manor	87
Oak Park	12
Oak Ridge Crossing	5

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Oak Trace	6
Other	5
Pheasant Run	4
Pine Hollow	4
Pine Ridge	6
Pines of Westfield	3
Richters Corner	4
Ridge at Hayden Run	2
Ridgewood	5
Roberts Rolling Acre	4
Sandpiper Lakes	11
Setter's Place	2
Setters Run	3
Silver Lakes	4
Sonoma	2
Spring Meadows	1
Springdale Farms	4
Springmill	1
Springmill Estates	1
Springmill Villages	6
Summit Lakes	4
The Oaks	2
The Villages at Pebblebrook	1
Timberbrook Run	5
Viking Meadows	2
Village Farms	112
Village Park Estates	8
Villages of Oak Manor	12
Villas at Oak Ridge	2
Westfield Farms	4

## City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



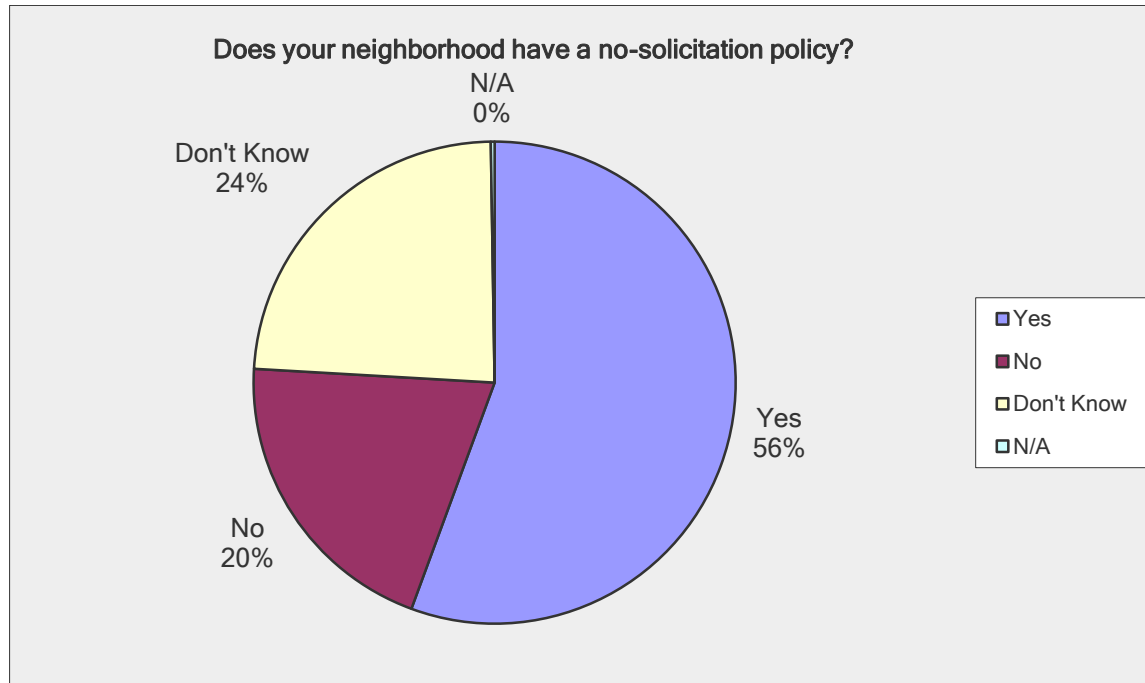
Westfield Green Estates	3
Williamsburg Farms	4
Willow Creek	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>794</b>

The most respondents were from Downtown, Village Farms, Oak Manor, and Brookside.

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



2) Does your neighborhood have a no-solicitation policy?

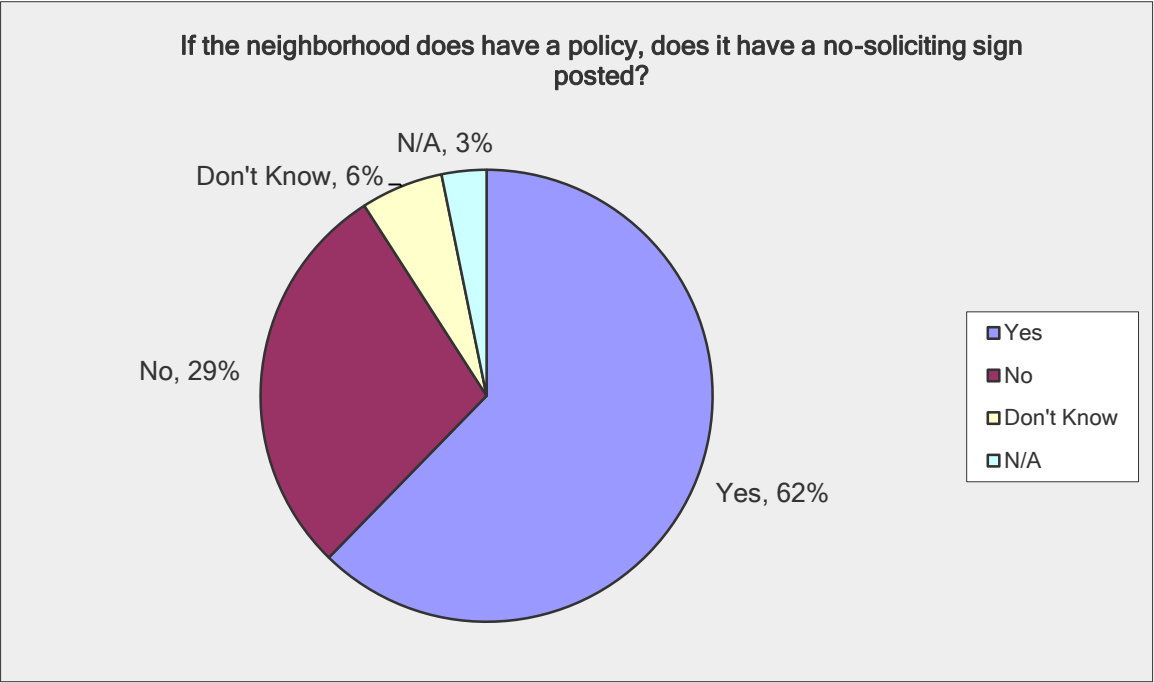


56% of neighborhoods have a no-solicitation policy in place currently. 20% of respondents do not. 24% do not know if there is a policy in their neighborhood.

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



3) If the neighborhood does have a policy, does it have a no-soliciting sign posted?

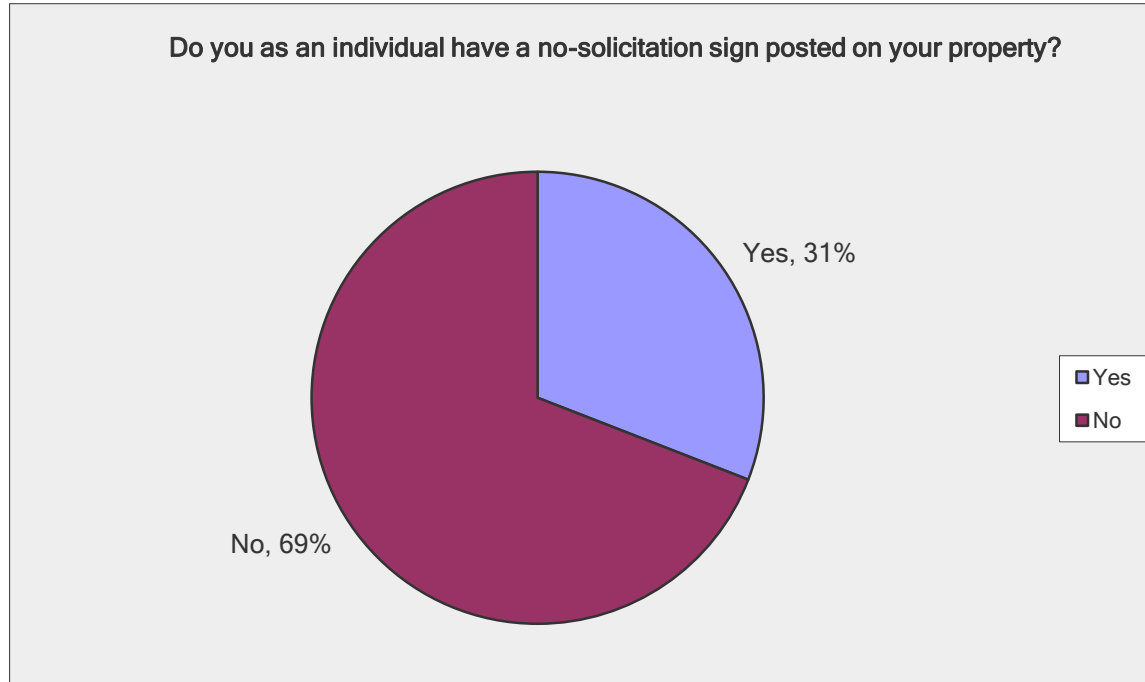


Of the neighborhoods that have a policy, 62% have a no-soliciting sign posted. 29% do not have a sign posted.

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



4) Do you as an individual have a no-solicitation sign posted on your property?

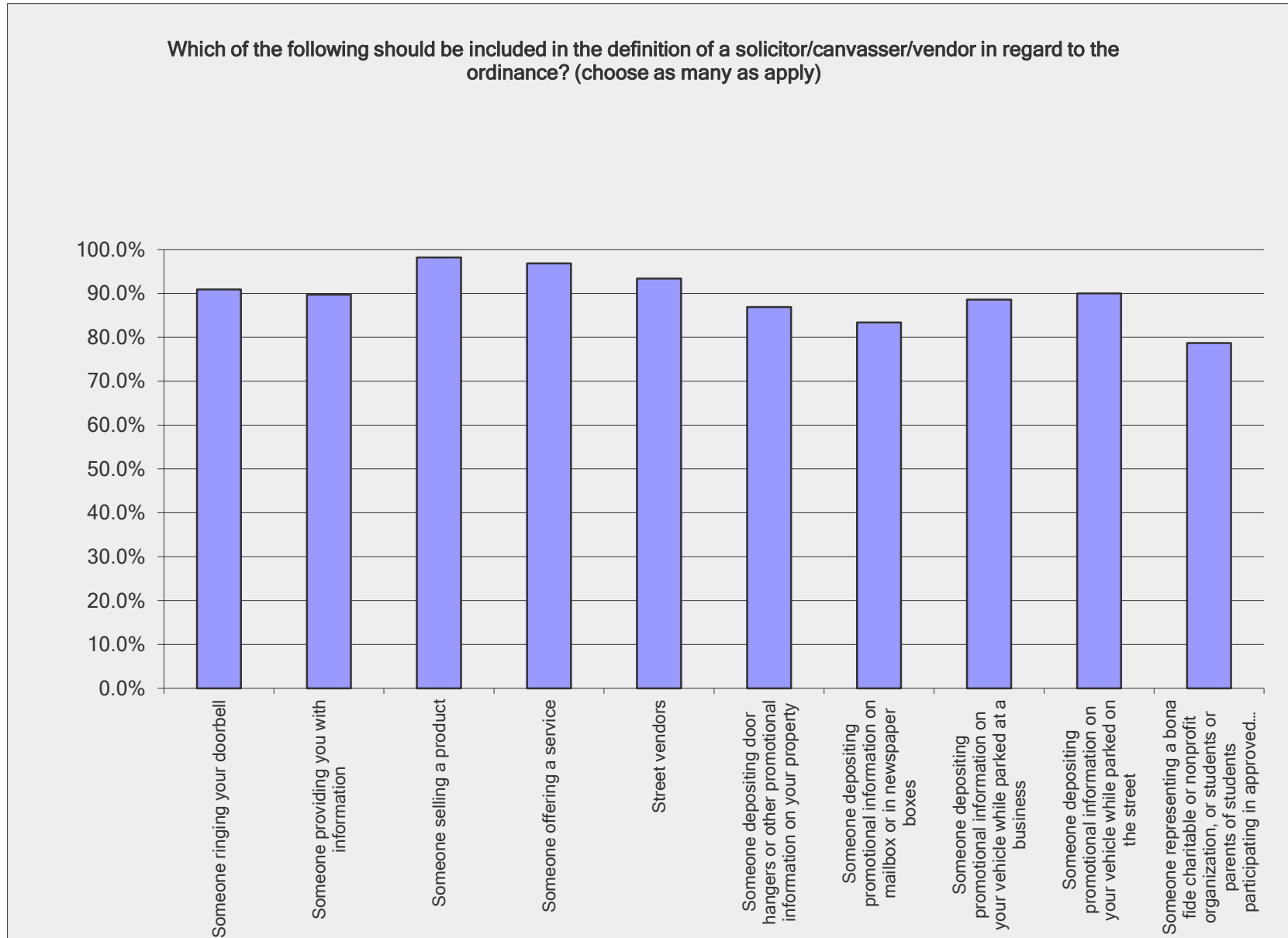


69% of respondents are as individuals do not have a no-solicitation sign posted on their property. 31% do not.

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



5) Which of the following should be included in the definition of a solicitor/canvasser/vendor in regard to the ordinance? (choose as many as apply)





# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



## Comments

You should not include non-for-profit groups-seriously they are trying to help the community!!!

There should not be an ordinance

We don't have an issue with kids from the community coming to our door for school sponsored events so I would separate the last item.

I wouldn't mind but it's those that don't take no for an answer that I mind, that spoil it for the people that would take no for answer so they miss out on the opportunity, everyone gets tarred with the same brush

Groups which drop off adults/teenagers/children to sell their products which do not benefit a local school or organization

Someone approaching me outdoors on my property to sell something

Someone looking for signatures on a petition

someone asks for a donation

anybody selling anything and also anybody wanting you to sign for some cause, I do not want anybody but neighbors ringing my doorbell.

girls scouts/boy scouts

All of the above could be addressed.

The ice-cream truck is okay

Bona fide charitable or nonprofit or students or parents from schools outside the county

Religious Activity

Local kids (girl/boy scout + schools) are fine. People from outside Westfield are NO

Solicitors setting up appointments for salesmen

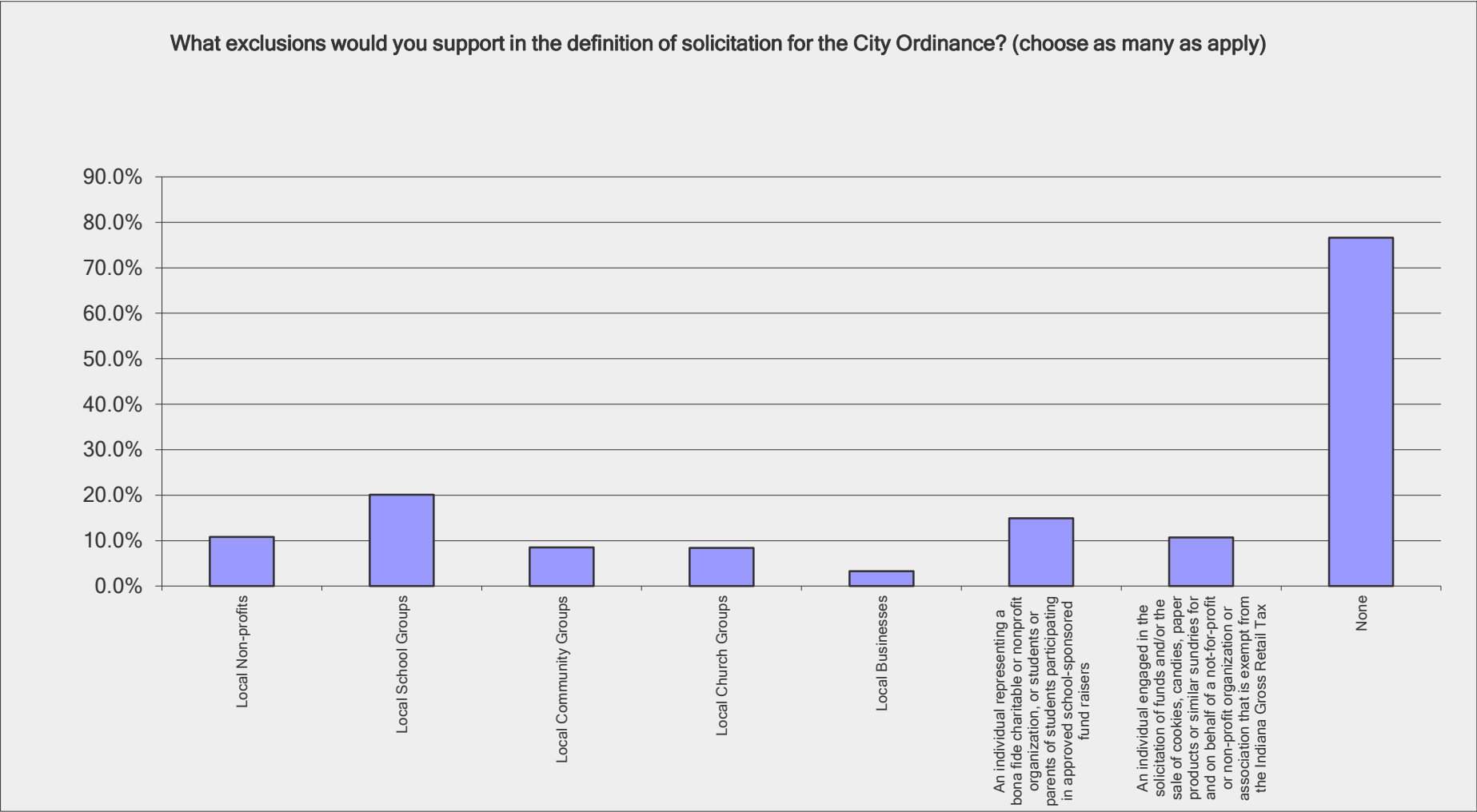
ok for door hangers / newspaper box/ not mailbox

Someone selling a product	98.2%
Someone offering a service	96.8%
Street vendors	93.4%
Someone ringing your doorbell	90.9%
Someone depositing promotional information on your vehicle while parked on the street	90.0%
Someone providing you with information	89.7%
Someone depositing promotional information on your vehicle while parked at a business	88.6%
Someone depositing door hangers or other promotional information on your property	86.9%
Someone depositing promotional information on mailbox or in newspaper boxes	83.4%
Someone representing a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, or students or parents of students participating in approved school-sponsored fund raisers	78.7%

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



6) What exclusions would you support in the definition of solicitation for the City Ordinance? (choose as many as apply)



77% of respondents would not support any exclusion. 20% would support local school groups and 15% would support an individual representing a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, or students or parents of students participating in approved school-sponsored fund raisers. The rest of the options were below 11%.

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



## Comments

If there is an ordinance there should be no exclusions

Citizens running for public offices

Boy and Girl Scouts along with Westfield Schools

local scouts

I don't have a problem with local business advertising by means of placing advertisement on my mailbox, just not coming to my door.

kids that live within the neighborhood fundraising

Political candidates or representatives of political candidates/organizations

neighbor friends selling for school or sports

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.

Immediate neighbors with fund raisers for local school, basically people we would know.

Students of the local school accompanied by a parent

Selling magazines

Soliciting is soliciting, whether "non-profit" or not.

Exclusions are too easy to falsify/fake and workaround - therefore, eliminate them. It's not hard to have a permit in hand or be fined.

girl scout cookie sales

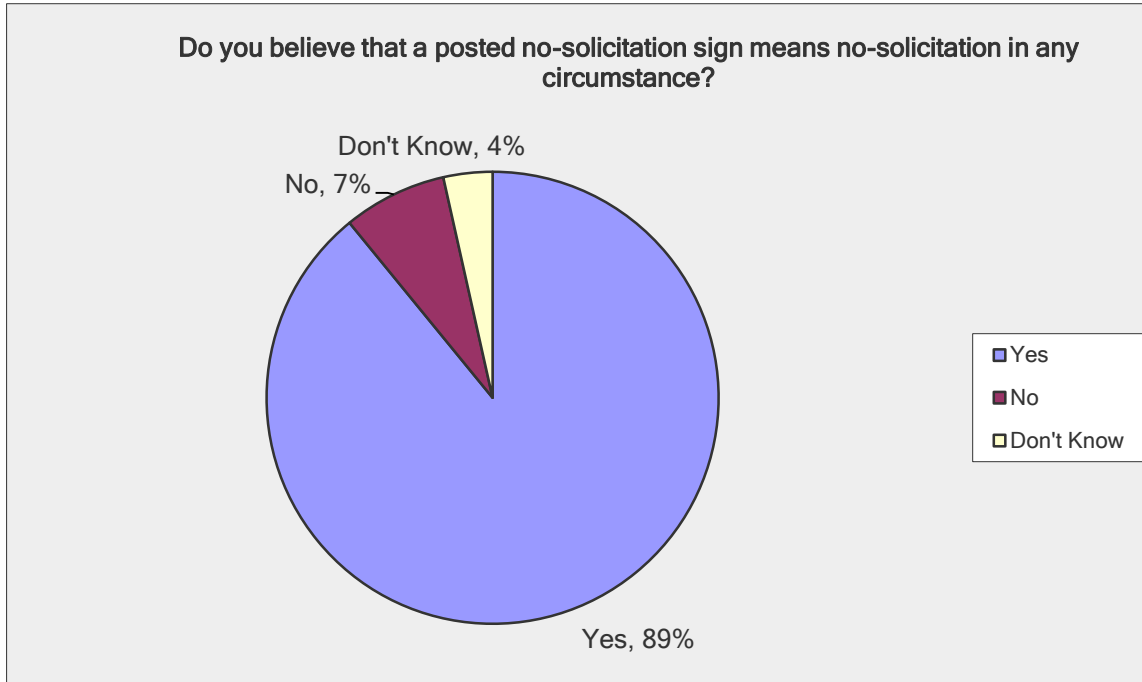
Out of Township based organizations

None	76.6%
Local School Groups	20.1%
An individual representing a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, or students or parents of students participating in approved school-sponsored fund raisers	14.9%
Local Non-profits	10.8%
An individual engaged in the solicitation of funds and/or the sale of cookies, candies, paper products or similar sundries for and on behalf of a not-for-profit or non-profit organization or association that is exempt from the Indiana Gross Retail Tax	10.7%
Local Community Groups	8.5%
Local Church Groups	8.4%
Local Businesses	3.3%

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



7) Do you believe that a posted no-solicitation sign means no-solicitation in any circumstance?

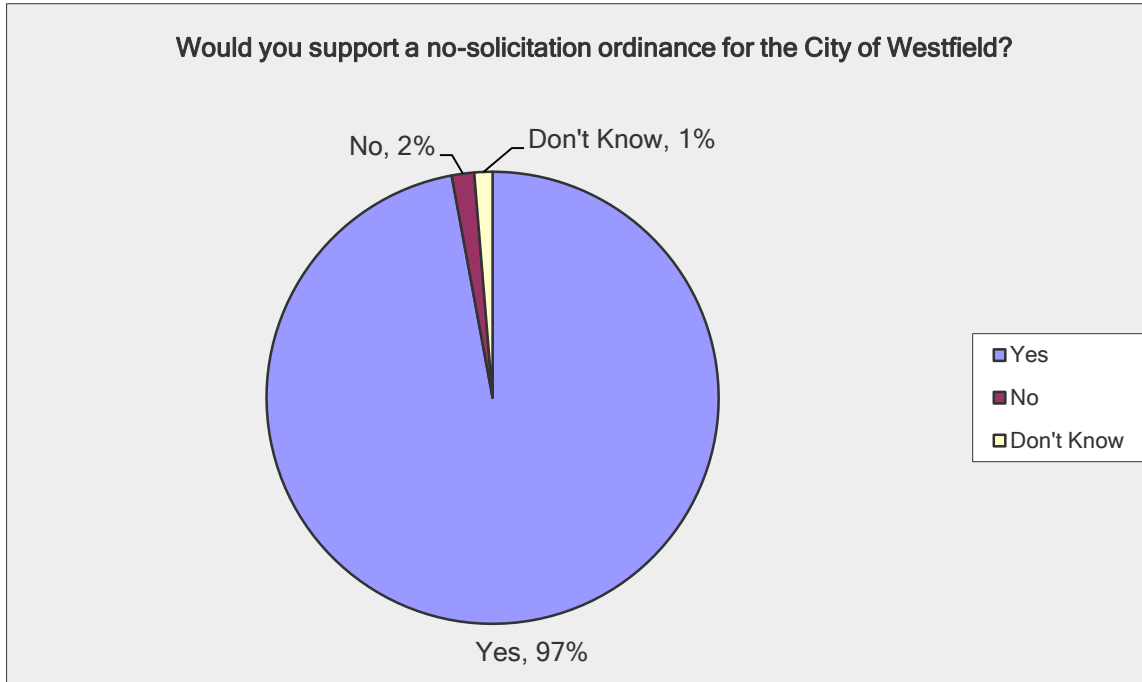


**89% of respondents believe that a posted no-solicitation sign means no-solicitation in any circumstance.**

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



8) Would you support a no-solicitation ordinance for the City of Westfield?

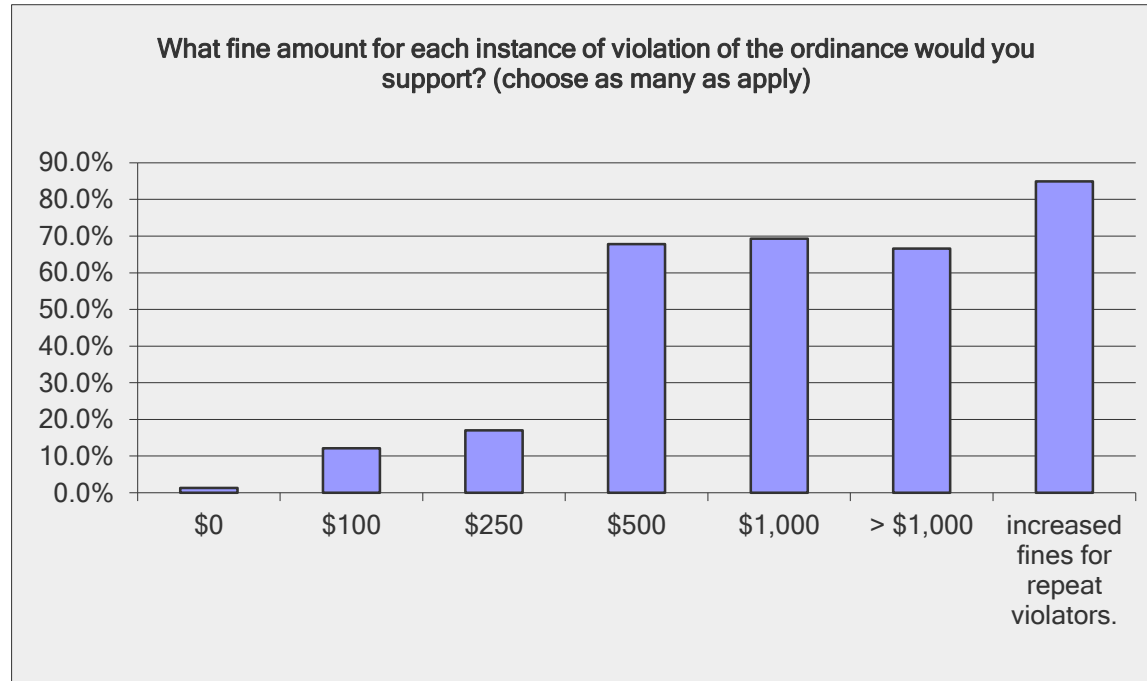


**97% would support a no-solicitation ordinance for the City of Westfield.**

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



9) What fine amount for each instance of violation of the ordinance would you support? (choose as many as apply)



**85% would support increased fines for repeat offenders. 67-69% reported that they would support fines of \$500-over \$1,000.**

# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



10) Optional: Please list any comments or concerns that you have that may be helpful in revising the solicitation ordinance.

## **Safety and Enforcement:**

- It hasn't been too bad, but when someone is soliciting in my neighborhood and I call the Police, I want to be sure they'll take care of the problem promptly if I give them a description and that my house won't be vandalized by the solicitor afterward. In other words, I don't want the solicitor to know WHO filed the complaint against them.
- "Approved" local organizations, such as the scouts or school fund raisers must obtain a "permit" or license from the city/school for the specific fundraiser as well as having the permit covering very specific dates for the solicitation. The permit must be displayed by the solicitor when soliciting.
- Too many people knocking at the door who are not identifiable as salespeople, legit people should have an ID clearly visible, issued by the city, if deemed viable.
- There is a very fine line between supporting the local community & allowing outside vendors to canvas the neighborhood. We must have a strong ordinance w/ some teeth in it, that does not curtail our support for local businesses, non-profits, school groups, church groups, etc. Please research surrounding communities' laws before enacting ours, to see what problems, if any, have arisen, from the two groups overlapping one another. A strong, flourishing, family-oriented, safe community is what we all seek, so let's work toward that goal in every decision that is made!
- While our neighborhood had no solicitation signs it hasn't stopped solicitors.
- This is a critical issue. A large number of homes in my neighborhood either have no one home during the day or a mother home with her children. We shouldn't have to worry about potential criminals going door-to-door posing as solicitors.
- I want kids, local community groups (youth sports, girl/boy scouts etc) to be able to raise funds for their programs. I do not like people representing "magazine sales etc" whom are not part of the area coming to my door. It is a safety issue.
- Nothing left on door, on or in mailboxes, or anywhere else on property unless excluded from ordinance. Signage important. Only local schools, groups like scouts, etc. should be allowed to go door to door. Many claim they are nonprofit - they are from out of town mostly and scant information on them...unsafe.
- Our society has changed over the course of the last few decades. As such, we need to place a priority on SAFETY. Individuals, whether with a bona fide for profit organization, non for profit organization, or school organization, showing up uninvited on personal property poses a significant risk to the safety of our families and children. I strongly believe that Westfield should take a leadership role in protecting the safety of our citizens. Strangers, whether they be in our community or outside our community, present an unnecessary risk to our families. There could be no product or service worth risking our family's safety.
- For the safety of all Westfield residents, please enact an aggressive ordinance and put a stop to the canvassing in our neighborhood. Most solicitors ignore my signage, so it's clear that more needs to be done to stop these intrusions. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concern.

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- I think it is very dangerous to open your door to anyone that you do not know. I only open my door to mail related people and only if I can see their delivery truck.
- I would strongly prefer that local non-profit organizations and church/school volunteers be exempt from the ordinance. IF they were not, however, they should receive a warning (up to 2 per year) prior to any fines.
- warning and then fine
- Please insure that the Westfield Police Department understands and enforces the policies.
- There are too many instances when homeowners have been put in harm's way or just plain uncomfortable. We should feel safe in our own homes and neighborhoods. We should not have to pretend we are not home or have to stay inside as to not be approached by these vendors.
- ICE CREAM MAN IS ALSO SOLICITOR
- Ice cream truck driver past conviction for child solicitation, although the sounds of an ice-cream truck bring back wonderful memories of my childhood; we do not want this type of person in our community.
- In Westfield, we have to have a permit for a garage sale (which is crazy) but these vendors have to have a 'permit' to be at my house- how do I know if it is even real? What about asking the vendor- that isn't something people feel comfortable with either. Stop these solicitations and keep our neighborhoods safe for our families.
- Individuals required to show I.D showing Westfield address, if a minor, must be accompanied by adult with I.D and to benefit local School, church, business, or non/not for profit
- We had a problem last summer with a solicitor that came to our door and our neighbors at and shortly after dark. I told him the neighborhood had a ""no soliciting"" policy and closed the door on him. He then went across the street and stopped our neighbor's wife as she was driving into her driveway. I walked over and asked the solicitor again to leave, and he did.  
I then called the Westfield Police and reported it. They came out about 20 minutes later (after the solicitor was gone). I spoke with the officer and he said that even though Village Farms has signs at their entrances against soliciting, if the solicitor has a permit from the city, the police can't do anything.  
Our neighborhood association president has told us that the police have told him that they do have the authority to ask the solicitors to leave. So it sounds as though the Westfield Police have mixed messages.
- My zero tolerance for solicitation may sound harsh, but impostors will use any chance they can get to deceive, steal, and harm others, even those who are peacefully minding their own business, in their own personal space. We all hear these stories every day, and what's to say we couldn't be the next victim?  
Even those who do not have evil intent are still intruding on the privacy of the individual home owner who may be made to feel awkward or unkind in his own home, by not welcoming a group's pleas for money.



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Solicitation can be done at storefronts and mall parking lots, by mail, and by advertisements in the newspapers or on the web, so that we may make the choice to participate voluntarily.

- I do believe no solicitation signs on someone's front door does mean no solicitation of any kind - including those exceptions such as scouts. This should be respected by all Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and school organizations.  
A fine of \$100 is excessive for first time offenses.
- There are sufficient alternative venues, that don't expose home occupants to annoyance, potential harassment or scam artists, for legitimate solicitors to ply their product or cause.
- actually enforcing the ordinance
- I am a single mom, & I've had a couple of encounters of men coming to my door after dark & selling magazines (or whatever). This is not only rude but scary. I don't mind cookies & popcorn, but I don't want anyone over the age of 13 coming by & absolutely no one after dusk. :) Thank you
- I'd rather see solicitations for any organization (especially school / non-profit / church groups) done in a public location (supermarket, retail store area / strip mall) than go door-to-door. I think it's too risky. But I'd really rather have all solicitations stopped from reaching my door. It makes my dog go crazy and makes me worry to whom I'm opening my door. These days I tell my kids to stay quiet because I'm not answering it at all! We shouldn't feel we have to do that in our own home.
- I have seen solicitors coming to homes after it has become dark, I would never open my door to an unknown person after dark, and there is just too much crime in today's society.
- Solicitation happens all too frequently in our neighborhood and my greatest concern is that it can well be a smoke screen for people with less than honest intentions....IE home invasion, theft, etc.
- Unfortunately, I know schools depend on fundraisers to secure funds for everyday operations. If that were not a fact, I would be against any solicitation. If I need something, I know where to go to find it. I don't need someone at my door. Flyers in the mailbox don't annoy me except a lot of times they are left blowing in my yard, which is an irritant. The solicitor that is most irritating is the company that sends out young students (?) who want you to buy magazines (to keep them from living off the streets) in other words, it is my fault that they are delinquents if I don't buy magazines. Also, just because it is annoying to have solicitors at your door, I'm not sure it should be a crime and punishable by a fine, unless a fine is only incurred if the company continues many times(your choice - 5, 10 ?) after being told to discontinue their practice.
- I don't know that a violator should be fined for a first infraction, misunderstandings can occur. However, I do believe the City should reserve the right to revoke a license following a first infraction, or exercise reasonable discretion to issue a warning. I believe fines for someone caught soliciting the filed for and was denied a permit should be high enough to serve as a deterrent. I don't think a company should be allowed to bus kids under 18 in from other states to canvas or solicit a neighborhood in Westfield (this happens in the Chicago area). I don't believe we should allow organizations that have one adult transporting and supervising 4 or more minors, or persons under the age of 21, while they canvas a neighborhood.
- Solicitation Policy not enforced well; Centennial really needs your help!

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- How will this be informed? What will be the process for reporting violations to the policy?
- We routinely get the myriad of people at our door being along Union St.; and it needs to stop. Neighbors knocking on neighbors doors to tell them about a loose shingle or looking for a stray dog is one thing. But the nonstop flood of people looking to shovel driveways or sell the next-great-new-thing is just an interruption. How's the individual supposed to know if a person at their door successfully applied and was granted a valid permit, or that they're being preyed upon or ""scouted out"" for the next break-in?  
Stop it all. Please. And have a way for homeowners to check on permit status online or w/ a phone call, and report it and get action to remove the person from the area if it's not valid.
- I support an ordinance and postings as long as little kids can still sell things to me. I support school sales, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I am very bothered by other groups of people in ties and white shirts that are dropped off here and canvass neighborhoods for their random cause that I cannot verify.
- Don't know what category selling magazines fall into--this is probably one of the most common and consistent door to door solicitations we receive and also one that seems to push hardest for getting the dollars spent to a high level and is allegedly for charity. Sometimes it's difficult to know whether these are allowed, and if they really are for charity and how to verify. You often feel pressured to buy because they are so persistent and because you don't know the organization and these people know where you live, so will there be retribution? They don't seem to be neighbor kids, but we don't have kids so we are limited to knowing just the kids that live on our block.  
I would like to see door to door solicitations be limited to small level purchases, preferably allowing maybe just children up to a certain age--16/17 for school or related extracurricular related items.  
There are so many other avenues for others to use these days to make a sale, I don't think they need to come uninvited to our homes often disturbing family meals or a long awaited day off.
- We have a no-solicitation sign on our mailbox and front door. We installed the signage after numerous solicitations by grown adult men. These individuals were always selling candy and would ring the doorbell at approximately 8pm on school nights. The no-solicitation sign has for the most part stopped this annoying intrusion into our privacy. The religious groups however just don't get the concept of no-solicitation and canvas the neighborhood spreading their beliefs and literature at will. We have asked why our homeowner's association has not posted a sign at each entrance and the explanation given years ago did not make any sense. In the past I have called the non-emergency police line on the solicitation individuals in the neighborhood after dark. From time to time we will also be bothered by service providers who don't feel the no-solicitation signage is aimed at them. Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this survey.
- The penalty for breaking the law must be higher than the cost or savings of not mailing solicitations. Anything lower than \$500. Benefits the solicitor. Thank you for taking this problem on!
- About 4 times a year young adults and kids are brought to our neighborhood to sell items - usually raising money for a trip. Several times they have ringed our door bell after dark. This isn't safe for these kids to be out alone after dark in an unfamiliar location.

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- It's amazing how many solicitors' especially unsupervised children who ignore our sign and our wishes to do what they want to do. It's wrong and should have a stiff penalty.
- Indiana Has a Do Not Call List and its legal Westfield needs to have an iron clad Do not solicit for everyone! I would prefer to be contacted by phone than at my door. I hope you get this done for tax payers and all residents of Westfield. Thank you for all who are doing the ugly leg work on this issue!
- Our HOA has rules against Soliciting ....but they are often ignored. It's a shame because peace and quiet is the main reason we moved to Westfield.
- I don't need people bothering me at home, and it makes me feel very unsafe!
- We all have our favorite charities and many are worthy of our time and money, but knocking on my door or interrupting our lives is neither safe nor respectful of property owners. Quality charitable organizations can set up in public spaces like downtown Westfield, Wal-Mart, Kroger, Marsh etc.
- We have a phone chain in our neighborhood when solicitors are here. We want them out and no soliciting signs do not work. We had one solicitor break into several vehicles. I find their trash strewn about the neighborhood and it makes me feel unsafe. I would definitely like no-soliciting to be a city wide policy except for school age children.
- I believe there is protection of church groups under the freedom of speech amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, it would be futile to have a ban of church/religious groups. This needs to be checked out by competent legal counsel.  
The big issue I have is who would issue the citation. If said regulation is deemed a zoning ordinance, the need to have a responsive officer available 24/7/365 like a police officer when 911 is called to report a violation is needed. Is the town ready to supply said person?

## **Oppose no-solicitation ordinance:**

- People need the right to choose! Not giving them that right is wrong. Allow groups to solicit and allow the people to choose to open the door or end the conversation when they want to. Not every homeowner wants this. Allow those who do to close their door.
- I don't believe that no solicitation ordinances are supported by the U.S. Constitution.
- With the way the economy is, this is the only way that some people can earn money. They can't call because of the "do not call list" and now no one wants them at their door. This very well could affect citizens of Westfield. I can simply not answer my door if someone knocks on it. Who knows, you may want or be in need of the very service they are trying to make you aware of. Lighten up people.
- I generally do not support a solicitation ordinance because it may be different from my personal one, which is: For children that I already know or that live in my neighborhood, I always buy. Otherwise, the solicitor has 60 seconds to describe his/her ""cause"" and leave information.

## **Support no-solicitation ordinance in neighborhood:**

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- I can't say I would oppose for the City of Westfield, but I sure would for Village Farms

## **Support Door hangers, information bags, newspaper slots:**

- Unknown groups from outside of Westfield should be banned. Exception should be made for public office seekers. Sales literature left under the mail box in a separate slot or tube at the curb is alright with me. I like to know about new services or store discounts in my area. Door hangers or information bags left on doors for charitable local causes should be allowed.
- We really like to support local charities, businesses, and school and scout groups; however, we would prefer not to have them ring the doorbell. We would like to see them be allowed to put information in the newspaper tubes so that we could read the information then contribute.
- Unfortunately, I know schools depend on fundraisers to secure funds for everyday operations. If that were not a fact, I would be against any solicitation. If I need something, I know where to go to find it. I don't need someone at my door. Flyers in the mailbox don't annoy me except a lot of times they are left blowing in my yard, which is an irritant. The solicitor that is most irritating is the company that sends out young students (?) who want you to buy magazines (to keep them from living off the streets) in other words, it is my fault that they are delinquents if I don't buy magazines. Also, just because it is annoying to have solicitors at your door, I'm not sure it should be a crime and punishable by a fine, unless a fine is only incurred if the company continues many times (your choice - 5, 10 ?) after being told to discontinue their practice.
- "The city may be interested in the ""health"" or ""safety"" of residents, but most residents are more concerned about their privacy or quiet enjoyment being interrupted by someone - whether a door-to-door home improvement contractor, a teenager selling magazine subscriptions or an unknown neighbor-kid selling school band candy.  
I positively don't want to see any new ordinances against ANYONE who's not soliciting money (or ""donations""), but is distributing information ONLY. Politicians, petitioners and various canvassers (including religious persons) who are only disseminating information (flyers, brochures, etc.) without any intent for present or future monetary-type ""business"" (including non-profit) should not be prohibited from their right to free speech, etc.  
The present city ordinance is probably adequate regarding itinerant and temporary door-to-door sales, but if you want to prohibit other solicitations (example: those with local offices, warehouses or other places of business or are otherwise licensed or regulated by the state or the city) I don't think the city should exempt non-profits, churches, schools, etc.  
Soliciting is soliciting. All types are annoying, interruptive and maybe even dangerous. (Sadly, even ""children"" can be dangerous as we've seen in the news media in recent years.) If you prohibit one type of (business) solicitor on the basis of health or safety, I think it right (and prudent) to prohibit all."
- I don't have a problem with local business advertising by means of placing advertisement on my mailbox, just not coming to my door.

## **Oppose Door hangers, information bags, newspaper slots:**

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- Nothing left on door, on or in mailboxes, or anywhere else on property unless excluded from ordinance. Signage important. Only local schools, groups like scouts, etc. should be allowed to go door to door. Many claim they are nonprofit - they are from out of town mostly and scant information on them...unsafe.

## **Magazine, book selling:**

- Really dislike people coming to my door trying to raise money for trips to wherever. Especially the magazine/book selling. Complete rip off.
- Unfortunately, I know schools depend on fundraisers to secure funds for everyday operations. If that were not a fact, I would be against any solicitation. If I need something, I know where to go to find it. I don't need someone at my door. Flyers in the mailbox don't annoy me except a lot of times they are left blowing in my yard, which is an irritant. The solicitor that is most irritating is the company that sends out young students (?) who want you to buy magazines (to keep them from living off the streets) in other words, it is my fault that they are delinquents if I don't buy magazines. Also, just because it is annoying to have solicitors at your door, I'm not sure it should be a crime and punishable by a fine, unless a fine is only incurred if the company continues many times(your choice - 5, 10 ?) after being told to discontinue their practice.

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There are so many other avenues for others to use these days to make a sale, I don't think they need to come uninvited to our homes often disturbing family meals or a long awaited day off.

## **Support no-solicitation ordinance:**

- Westfield has become the only affluent Hamilton County town that does not have a no solicitation ordinance. Please enact an ordinance prohibiting solicitation. The amount of trash that is blowing around as a result of the solicitations placed in our newspaper box or on our mailbox is amazing. I pick up trash all day after a solicitor goes through the neighborhood.
- This has become a real issue in our neighborhood. I appreciate the city addressing the problem.
- This is a major problem. We have people coming to our door all the time. This needs to end.

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- The problem with these groups ringing the doorbell is that we usually don't know the people or know for sure that they are local. Also, we are caught ""off guard"" and sometimes don't contribute because we want to review the information first rather than making a split second decision to give money to a stranger."
- We must put a stop to the vendors coming to homes trimming trees, selling trees, painting services with quotes, drop-off sales when they pick up vendors/solicitors at the end of their shift/route.
- Today's society is such that the entire issue of solicitation on or around private property, particularly residential should be eliminated completely. There are appropriate venues for solicitation in public with specific approval - lobbies or vestibules of various business; grocery stores, banks, retail stores, etc.
- My zero tolerance for solicitation may sound harsh, but impostors will use any chance they can get to deceive, steal, and harm others, even those who are peacefully minding their own business, in their own personal space. We all hear these stories every day, and what's to say we couldn't be the next victim?  
Even those who do not have evil intent are still intruding on the privacy of the individual home owner who may be made to feel awkward or unkind in his own home, by not welcoming a group's pleas for money.  
Solicitation can be done at storefronts and mall parking lots, by mail, and by advertisements in the newspapers or on the web, so that we may make the choice to participate voluntarily.
- There are sufficient alternative venues, that don't expose home occupants to annoyance, potential harassment or scam artists, for legitimate solicitors to ply their product or cause.
- When violators ring my bell, I let them know of the ordinance for our neighborhood, point to the sign on my property(attached to speed limit sign), and ask them to obey it. I also always offer them a bottle of water, to make sure they understand we have some compassion for their plight.
- Solicitation is out of control especially unsupervised children
- It's truly out of control and very disruptive to all of our daily lives! Please Help!
- Furniture off a truck, Meat out of a van, Vacuum sales, out of control children selling everything you can imagine. Please help.
- People especially parents and unsupervised children seem to do what they intend to do irrespective of the rules. Merrimac really needs Westfield's help! Please
- We routinely get the myriad of people at our door being along Union St.; and it needs to stop. Neighbors knocking on neighbors doors to tell them about a loose shingle or looking for a stray dog is one thing. But the nonstop flood of people looking to shovel driveways or sell the next-great-new-thing is just an interruption. How's the individual supposed to know if a person at their door successfully applied and was granted a valid permit, or that they're being preyed upon or ""scouted out"" for the next break-in?  
Stop it all. Please. And have a way for homeowners to check on permit status online or w/ a phone call, and report it and get action to remove the person from the area if it's not valid.

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- We hope you stop the daily intrusion on our lives!
- Solicitation is out of control in Centennial, so please pass a total ban Please!
- Van loads of Unsupervised Children come into our community disrespecting our rules for our community and disrespecting our property. This must stop!
- Please put a stop to this weekly intrusion on our lives!
- Our home is just that... It's not a charity, or business, and we do not want to be bothered by anyone unless it's a true emergency.
- Whatever we have now is not working, so do something that does work.
- Solicitors interrupt family times, holidays, weekends with complete disrespect for property owners. Please put a stop to them or make them pay for breaking the law.
- Ban solicitation by all so there is no room for confusion, preferential treatment, or abuse.
- It's amazing how many solicitors' especially unsupervised children who ignore our sign and our wishes to do what they want to do. It's wrong and should have a stiff penalty.

## **Oppose business or service solicitations:**

- My biggest concern with solicitors is with those coming into the neighborhood promoting a business or service. They have no connection and their flyers litter the neighborhood. I have no concern with children of families that live in the neighborhood/have a connection or vested interest in the neighborhood selling fundraiser items, etc. for school or non-profits
- I don't mind local kids but don't want obvious high pressure sales groups knocking on my door
- I want kids, local community groups (youth sports, girl/boy scouts etc) to be able to raise funds for their programs. I do not like people representing "magazine sales etc" whom are not part of the area coming to my door. It is a safety issue.
- I support solicitation for school fundraiser or local communities(like Boy Scouts), but others should not be allowed in our subdivision.

## **Support business or service solicitations:**

- I feel that offering a service such a snowplowing driveways and sidewalks are ok. Also, repairs to your home for service is ok. A lot of people don't know how to get a hold of people for these types of service. I feel that door hangers and flyers for services in newspaper boxes

## **Oppose non-profit/school groups/etc. exclusion:**

- Not wanting any solicitation whatsoever may seem harsh to the girl scout cookie sellers, high school band fund raisers, so on and so on. The fact is, we support and contribute to the girl scouts and HS bands, etc that we choose to support. We are tired of A) having to disappoint child after child because we have already made our decision as to which girl scouts, bands, etc we choose and/or can afford to support, and B) interrupted dinners, family time,

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quiet time, personal time. It should not be against the law to knock on someone's door but, it should be against the law to knock on someone's door in order to solicit. Thank you.

- The majority of solicitation I receive is from children selling. If these individuals are excluded than any ordinance is a useless waste of time and money.
- We really like to support local charities, businesses, and school and scout groups; however, we would prefer not to have them ring the doorbell. We would like to see them be allowed to put information in the newspaper tubes so that we could read the information then contribute.
- Everyone has Charities that they support, but that does not mean we want them all knocking at our doors, no matter how worthwhile or good they are. Support your Charities and I'll support mine.
- I do believe no solicitation signs on someone's front door does mean no solicitation of any kind - including those exceptions such as scouts. This should be respected by all Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and school organizations.
- A fine of \$100 is excessive for first time offenses.
- 15 unsupervised kids terrorizing our community; running through the landscaping, ringing doorbells to sell you the same box of cookies, Christmas Trees, Decor, Magazines, Coupons, Cheese, Gift Baskets. Our home is the only refuge we have from this crazy world, and solicitors, and yes children are soliciting; they are downgrading our quality of life. These people feel the rules apply to everyone else except them because their cause is worthy of breaking HOA rules and regulations, their cause is worthy of breaking Westfield ordinances. The violators feel entitled to do what they want to do when, where, and how they feel is best for them and their cause. There are many ways of fundraising without disrupting the lives of Westfield residents. They forget that we are the owners of our property, that we already support them through taxes, fundraising and donations and we say No Soliciting, Private, and yes that means everyone.
- We purchased a home in Centennial which has a clear, written No solicitation policy, with signs clearly posted. Because of a few minority HOA board members and residents whose children solicit for boy scouts and school sports etc. all of Centennial residents are bullied, pressured into accepting this deplorable behavior. The rules just do not apply to them... They feel entitled to do as they please. Once one personal solicitation exemption is made to the rules it makes all residents feel exempt from the rules. Many of the causes are good and we even support some through yearly donations and taxes, but how do you allow some without allowing all. It's maddening and something needs to be done to stop the disruption to our daily life.
- I'd rather see solicitations for any organization (especially school / non-profit / church groups) done in a public location (supermarket, retail store area / strip mall) than go door-to-door. I think it's too risky. But I'd really rather have all solicitations stopped from reaching my door. It makes my dog go crazy and makes me worry to whom I'm opening my door. These days I tell my kids to stay quiet because I'm not answering it at all! We shouldn't feel we have to do that in our own home.
- We don't like sending children out to do door-to-door fund raising. There are other more efficient ways to sell Girl Scout Cookies and Cub Scouts Popcorn or to collect donations for school trips.



# City of Westfield Solicitation Survey Results



- "The city may be interested in the ""health"" or ""safety"" of residents, but most residents are more concerned about their privacy or quiet enjoyment being interrupted by someone - whether a door-to-door home improvement contractor, a teenager selling magazine subscriptions or an unknown neighbor-kid selling school band candy.  
I positively don't want to see any new ordinances against ANYONE who's not soliciting money (or ""donations""), but is distributing information ONLY. Politicians, petitioners and various canvassers (including religious persons) who are only disseminating information (flyers, brochures, etc.) without any intent for present or future monetary-type ""business"" (including non-profit) should not be prohibited from their right to free speech, etc.  
The present city ordinance is probably adequate regarding itinerant and temporary door-to-door sales, but if you want to prohibit other solicitations (example: those with local offices, warehouses or other places of business or are otherwise licensed or regulated by the state or the city) I don't think the city should exempt non-profits, churches, schools, etc.  
Soliciting is soliciting. All types are annoying, interruptive and maybe even dangerous. (Sadly, even ""children"" can be dangerous as we've seen in the news media in recent years.) If you prohibit one type of (business) solicitor on the basis of health or safety, I think it right (and prudent) to prohibit all."
- We all have our favorite charities and many are worthy of our time and money, but knocking on my door or interrupting our lives is neither safe nor respectful of property owners. Quality charitable organizations can set up in public spaces like downtown Westfield, Wal-Mart, Kroger, Marsh etc.
- If there is an ordinance there should be no exclusions
- Soliciting is soliciting, whether "non-profit" or not.
- Exclusions are too easy to falsify/fake and workaround - therefore, eliminate them. It's not hard to have a permit in hand or be fined.

## **Support non-profit/school groups/etc. exclusion:**

- My biggest concern with solicitors is with those coming into the neighborhood promoting a business or service. They have no connection and their flyers litter the neighborhood. I have no concern with children of families that live in the neighborhood/have a connection or vested interest in the neighborhood selling fundraiser items, etc. for school or non-profits.
- I don't want to see Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts limited or even our local school kids from being able to do fundraising.
- Despite a sign that says no solicitation, there are many strangers that walk through the neighborhood door to door. We have no issues with the neighborhood kids who ask us to support their clubs or organizations, but we have a lot of people that don't live in the neighborhood walking door to door. We need to have a better way to enforce no solicitation other than just posting a sign.
- I don't mind local kids but don't want obvious high pressure sales groups knocking on my door
- I am all for supporting the neighborhood children with their school related activities.

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- I want kids, local community groups (youth sports, girl/boy scouts etc) to be able to raise funds for their programs. I do not like people representing "magazine sales etc" whom are not part of the area coming to my door. It is a safety issue.
- Nothing left on door, on or in mailboxes, or anywhere else on property unless excluded from ordinance. Signage important. Only local schools, groups like scouts, etc. should be allowed to go door to door. Many claim they are nonprofit - they are from out of town mostly and scant information on them...unsafe.
- Please let the girl and boy scouts along with school sponsored events come door to door.
- I would strongly prefer that local non-profit organizations and church/school volunteers be exempt from the ordinance. IF they were not, however, they should receive a warning (up to 2 per year) prior to any fines.
- School children selling things for school, band, boy/girl scouts must be acceptable, but nothing else.
- This is a really tricky issue and I am very much for a strict ordinance on soliciting, PROVIDED that local boy/girl/cub scouts, school sponsored or other local non-for-profits are excluded. The hard part will be defining ""local not-for-profits"". Does local mean Westfield based? Hamilton County based? Indiana based? Where to draw the line?

I would strongly suggest that you make sure this ""no soliciting"" ordinance also has exclusion for kids on the corner selling cookies, water or lemonade. I don't believe that example is ""school sponsored"" or a local not for profit that is exempt from Indiana Gross Retail Sales Tax, but these should also be exempt.

With all due respect, please be sure to apply common sense here and not just going off the wishes of the area's biggest proponent of this effort who (and I could be mistaken) I don't feel wants any exceptions.

As for kids (under 18) from within my neighborhood (or Westfield for that matter) , I am fine with them, as they rarely come by now. It is the peddlers from out of the area that are the biggest concern to me.

- Youth organizations/schools should be allowed to solicit -- Girl Scout cookie sales
- I support solicitation for school fundraiser or local communities(like Boy Scouts), but others should not be allowed in our subdivision.
- I wouldn't want WWS school kids to be unable to go door to door for fundraisers etc.
- I would support exemptions for persons passing a petition for a political candidate, referendum, or other bona fide political activity; The term ""Not-for-Profit"" is troublesome to me in that a NFP is not necessarily an IRS-approved tax exempt 501(c)(3) charities. I can accept legitimate charities, as long as they respect a ""No Solicitation"" sign on my door. However, I do not believe any NFP should be allowed to solicit without a permit.
- Neighborhood school fundraisers and neighborhood Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts OK as an exception
- I generally do not support a solicitation ordinance because it may be different from my personal one, which is:  
For children that I already know or that live in my neighborhood, I always buy. Otherwise, the solicitor has 60 seconds to describe his/her ""cause"" and leave information.

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- I support an ordinance and postings as long as little kids can still sell things to me. I support school sales, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I am very bothered by other groups of people in ties and white shirts that are dropped off here and canvass neighborhoods for their random cause that I cannot verify.
- #7 - I would think even with a no-solicitation sign for the neighborhood, that local girl scouts could sell cookies, for example.
- Don't know what category selling magazines fall into--this is probably one of the most common and consistent door to door solicitations we receive and also one that seems to push hardest for getting the dollars spent to a high level and is allegedly for charity. Sometimes it's difficult to know whether these are allowed, and if they really are for charity and how to verify. You often feel pressured to buy because they are so persistent and because you don't know the organization and these people know where you live, so will there be retribution? They don't seem to be neighbor kids, but we don't have kids so we are limited to knowing just the kids that live on our block.  
I would like to see door to door solicitations be limited to small level purchases, preferably allowing maybe just children up to a certain age--16/17 for school or related extracurricular related items.  
There are so many other avenues for others to use these days to make a sale, I don't think they need to come uninvited to our homes often disturbing family meals or a long awaited day off.
- I hope that this would not include high school students who often solicit for sports teams, etc. or girl scouts selling cookies. We need to use common sense.
- I have no problem whatsoever with children soliciting for school fundraising, cub/boy scouts, and girl scouts. The key word here is children. The worst, most invasive, most problematic group of solicitors in our neighborhood are the teenagers who come by looking to "raise money for college" or to support some environmental cause that I've never heard of.
- School children solicitations would be okay, but not group of organization representatives
- We have a phone chain in our neighborhood when solicitors are here. We want them out and no soliciting signs do not work. We had one solicitor break into several vehicles. I find their trash strewn about the neighborhood and it makes me feel unsafe. I would definitely like no-soliciting to be a city wide policy except for school age children.
- Citizens running for public offices
- Boy and Girl Scouts along with Westfield Schools
- local scouts
- kids that live within the neighborhood fundraising
- Political candidates or representatives of political candidates/organizations
- neighbor friends selling for school or sports
- Girl Scouts
- Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.

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- immediate neighbors with fund raisers for local school, basically people we would know.
- Students of the local school accompanied by a parent
- Selling magazines
- girl scout cookie sales
- Out of Township based organizations